



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,289	12/16/2003	James R. Forte-McRobbie	1014-046 (2002-0377)	6512
26652	7590	12/19/2007	EXAMINER	
AT&T CORP. ROOM 2A207 ONE AT&T WAY BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921			SINGH, RAMNANDAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2614	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/737,289	Applicant(s) FORTE-MCROBBIE ET AL.	
	Examiner Ramnandan Singh	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The amendment to the Title of the Invention is approved.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 recites the limitations having acronyms, such as "IP", "PCM", "VoIP", "DSO" and "TDM". It is improper to use acronyms in a claim. Spell out the full word for every acronym used therein. A similar thing holds for claims 2-20.

Further, claims 1-2, 8, 15-16, 19-20 are also objected to because of the following:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "adapted to" in line 4. In *re Hutchinson*, it has been held that an element 'adapted to' performing a function is not a positive limitation in any patentable sense but only requires the ability to perform. *In re Hutchinson*, 154 F.2d 135, 138 (CCPA 1946); 69 U.S.P.Q. 138. Also see MPEP § 2111.04. A similar thing holds for claims 2, 8, 15-16, 19-20.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kung et al [US 6,252,952 B1] in view of Verthein et al [US 6,487,196 B1].

Regarding claim 1, Kung et al teach a method, comprising:

for a call (i.e. audio signals) between a local IP network(120) and a remote non-IP network (i.e. PSTN) (160), wherein audio signals are typically pulse-coded modulated (PCM) signals [Figs. 1-3; col. 3, line 21 to col. 6, line 33], converting IP packets to PCM robbed bit signaling [col. 12, line 1 to col. 13, line 10]] via a VoIP channelized router, the VoIP channelized router adapted to terminate an IP packet call [Figs. 1-4; col. 22, line 26 to col. 24, line 11].

However, Kung et al do not teach expressly a DSO assignment.

Verthein et al teach a network-based telephone system [Figs. 1-3] using a DSO assignment [col. 6, lines 12-26; col. 9, line 7 to col. 10, line 32] and providing the PCM robbed bit signaling to a TDM switch [Figs. 1, 3; col. 6, line 62 to col. 7, line 2; col. 9, lines 32-61; Fig. 2; col. 10, lines 34-65; col. Col. 2, lines 42-51; col. 4, lines 61-67; col. 14, line 50 to col. 15, line 11; col. 16, lines 26-45].

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Verthein et al with Kung et al in order to simultaneously serve multiple channels having different data rates [Verthein; col. 9, lines 15-19].

Claim 19 is essentially similar to claim 1 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Claim 20 is essentially similar to claim 1 except for a machine readable medium for storing instructions for activities. Kung et al further teach a machine readable medium (330) and memory (322) for storing

instructions for activities [Fig. 3; col. 17, line 16 to col. 18, line 14; col. 19, lines 57-65; col. 21, lines 16-20].

Regarding claim 3, Kung et al further teach the method, comprising:
detecting an off-hook condition of a telephone on the local IP network [col. 12, line 61 to col. 13, line 10].

Regarding claim 4, Kung et al further teach the method, comprising:
receiving, at the VoIP channelized router, an invite message related to an off hook condition of an IP telephone [Figs. 5-6; col. 12, line 61 to col. 13, line 10; Figs. 1-4; col. 22, line 26 to col. 24, line 11].

Regarding claim 5, Kung et al further teach the method, comprising:
providing a dial tone to a user of the local IP network [col. 12, lines 46-60].

Regarding claim 6, Verthein et al further teach the method,
Comprising:
converting an invite message, responsive to an off-hook condition, to a B bit toggle conforming to PCM signaling at the VoIP channelized router; and

forwarding the B bit toggle to the TDM switch [col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line 3; col. 9, lines 32-65; Fig. 2; col. 10, lines 35-65].

Regarding claim 7, Kung et al further teach the method, comprising:
receiving a called party telephone number from the local IP network [col. 10, line 54 to col. 11, line 6].

Regarding claim 9, the limitation is shown above.

Regarding claim 10, Kung et al further teach the method, comprising:
sending a signal indicative of ringing to the local IP network [claims 8, 11, 13].

Regarding claim 11, Verthein et al further teach the method,
comprising:
receiving a signal indicative of ringing from the TDM switch at the VOIP
channelized router [Fig. 2; col. 10, lines 34-65; col. Col. 2, lines 42-51; col.
4, lines 61-67; col. 14, line 50 to col. 15, line 11; col. 16, lines 26-45].

Regarding claims 12-14, the limitations are shown above.

Regarding claim 15, since the combination of Kung et al and Verthein et al teaches using high density modem (HDM) cards, such as 24 DSO channels for T1 line and 30 channels for an E1 line [Verthein et al; col. 9, lines 7-55], it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to convert voice packets into any format including a DSO1 and M24 in order to meet the performance specification of a system subject to circuit, system and design constraints.

Claims 16-18 are rejected for the similar reasons stated in claim 15 above.

5. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kung et al and verthein et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Cody et al [US 20040095925 A1].

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Kung et al and verthein et al does not teach expressly using a GR303 standard for Call reference value from a TDM interface. However, the use of the GR303 Standard is well-known in the art.

Cody et al teach using a GR303 standard for Call reference value from a TDM interface (602) [Figs. 6A, 6B, 10A, 10B; Para: 0060-68; 0086-0125].

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Cody et al with Verthein et al and Kung et al to use a GR303 standard in order to comply with the GR-303 call control protocol to be consistent with industry practice [Cody et al; Para: 0087].

Claim 8 is essentially similar to claim 2 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed Oct 09, 2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

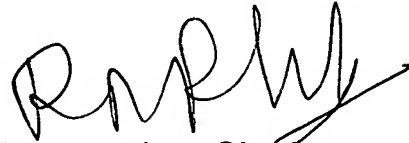
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access

Application/Control
Number: 10/737,289
Art Unit: 2614

Page 11

to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR
CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramnandan Singh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ramnandan Singh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614
